Conf Pam #530



E FLOWERS COLLECTION

House Res. No -.]

[ADJ. SES. 1864.

Introduced by Mr. AVERA, of Johnston.

W. W. Holden, Printer to the State.

RESOLUTIONS CONDEMNING THE SUSPENSION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS.

Whereas, It is declared in the Constitution of the Confed2 erate States, Art. 1st, Sec. 9th, part of paragraphs 15, 16,
3 "That the right of the people to be secure in their persons,
4 houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches
5 and seizures shall not be violated, and that no warrants
6 shall issue but upon probable cause supported by oath or
7 affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be
8 searched and the person or thing to be seized, and no per9 son shall be held to answer for a capital or otherwise in10 famous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a
11 grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval
12 forces or in the militia when in actual service in time of
13 war, nor be deprived of life, liberty or property without
14 due process of law."

16 Carolina, Bill of Rights, Secs. 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, "that in all 17 criminal prosecutions every man has a right to be inform18 ed of the accusations against him, and to confront the ac19 cusers and witnesses with other testimony. That no free20 man shall be put to answer any criminal charge but by
21 indictment, presentment or impeachment, nor shall be
22 convicted of any crime but by the unanimous verdict of a
23 jury of good and lawful men in open court. That general
24 warrants whereby any officer or messenger may be com25 manded to search suspected places without evidence of

And whereas, it is declared in the Constitution of North-

26 the facts committed or to seize any person or persons not 27 named whose offence is not particularly described and 28 supported by evidence, are dangerous to liberty and ought 29 not to be granted. That no freeman ought to be taken, 30 imprisoned or disseized of his freehold liberties or privi-31 leges, nor outlawed, or exiled, or in any manner destroy-32 ed or deprived of life, liberty or property, but by the law 33 of the land. That every freeman restrained of his liber-34 ties is entitled to a remedy to enquire into the lawfulness 35 thereof and remove the same if unlawful, and that such 36 remedy ought not to be denied or delayed."

And whereas, the writ of habeas corpus, the great Magna Charta of the people of the Confederate States, distinguishing a free Republican constitutional government from an absolute despotism, was on the 15th day of February last, by the Congress of the Confederate States, so suspended as to deprive persons arrested or detained by order of the President, Secretary of War or General deficer commanding the Trans-Mississippi Department of the privileges of said writ.

And whereas, one clause of said act provides that the President shall cause proper officers to investigate the acases of all persons so arrested—thus placing in his power to confer on military tribunals (appointed by and responsible only to him) to determine life and liberties of the citizen instead of leaving it where the Constitution and laws have placed it, to the proper judicial tribunals of the country, which, in the opinion of this Legislature is a sub-deversion of the spirit of the Constitution both of the Confederate States and the State of North-Carolina. And whereas, the preservation and perpetuation of constitutional liberty is the only object our people and heroic soldiers have in our present struggle with the federal government: Therefore,

Resolved, That in the opinion of this General Assembly 2 our salvation and final success in achieving our indepen-3 dence depends on nothing so much as our unflinching de-4 votion and preservation of constitutional liberty. Resolved further, That the act of Congress suspending the 2 privileges of the writ of habeas corpus is dangerous to the 3 liberties of the people, tends to make the civil power sub-4 ordinate to the military and establish a precedent of a 5 dangerous and ruinous character and should be repealed 6 at an early day.

Resolved further, That so long as this Act shall remain up2 on the Statute book and is the law of the land, it will be
3 respected and supported in North-Carolina unless declar4 ed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, our highest
5 judicial tribunal. Yet this General Assembly would prove
6 recreant to its trust as guardians of the rights and liber7 ties of the people, should it fail to enter a protest against
8 any encroachment upon the personal liberties of the hum9 blest citizen of North-Carolina, and do therefore demand
10 the repeal of said Act.

Resolved further, That our Senators in Congress be instruc-2 ted and our Representatives be requested to make an ear-

3 nest effort to secure the ear'y repeal of said Act.

Resolved further, That His Excellency Gov. Vance is here-2 by instructed and directed to forward a copy of these res-

3 olutions to President Davis and to the Senators and Rep-

4 resentatives in Congress from North-Carolina.

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